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Bypass issue examined by Appomattox officials

By FRANCES ABBITT

The Appomattox By-Pass ... a topic of conversation or a reality? If indeed it does become a reality, exactly what will it do and why is it needed?

As a result of the proposed Appomattox By-Pass (Route 460), through town traffic will be rerouted to the north of the town from 0.832 miles west of the west corporate limit of the Town of Appomattox to 0.900 miles east of the east corporate limit.

"It is my opinion that this by-pass is badly needed," said J.E. Richardson, sheriff of Appomattox County. "In the afternoon during the hours of 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. traffic is bumper to bumper with vehicles trying to move along in our county. It is almost impossible to make your way home without getting run over. On Thursday and Friday afternoons, with the traffic coming through from B&W and Lynchburg Foundry, etc., some of these working people have to sit in line and wait as long as fifteen to twenty minutes. This is not only unfair to the working people tryng to get home after working all day, but it is also costing the taxpayers more in gasoline, while they are having to just sit and keep their motors running, waiting for traffic to clear," Richardson said.

"I have had many complaints on this problem and we all feel that this by-pass will be a needed asset to our county," Richardson concluded.

David S. Nash, member of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors for the Cloverhill District and owner and operator of D. S. Nash Construction Co., is in favor of the proposed by-pass.

"I think we need this 460 by-pass. I don't believe it will hurt any businesses in town. I believe it is especially needed for the safety of the school children. Sooner or later, if something isn't done. there is going to be a bad accident and then it'll be too late," Nash said.

William C.Perrow, Supervisor of Transportation for the Appomattox County School Division, sees a definite need for the proposed 460 by-pass of the Town of Appomatox.

"From my point of view, it is a definite need that should be pushed forward with all priority," Perrow said.

"My concern is with the crowded conditions on U. S. 460 during the times when school is opening and closing. The movement of children and buses in and out of Appomattox Middle and Appomattox Elementary Schools could be made much safer and easier if through traffic was routed around the town. At present we have four flashing light school zone signs and two crossing guards functioning on U. S. 460 at the above mentioned schools. These crossing guards are always working with a constant flow of traffic. On many occasions in the afternoon traffic is lined up from one school to the other without interruption," Perrow said.

"I feel a by-pass would help improve this situation," Perrow concluded.

"We surveyed our bus drivers to determine the number of times each driver enters Route 460 daily with a school bus," said Lloyd G. Walton, Appomattox County School Division Superintendent.

"Thirty-seven drivers returned the survey form and reported entering Route 460 279 times with school buses. Eight drivers did not return the form, and it is estimated that these eight drivers entered Route 460 daily at least fifty times. Therefore the total number of entries into Route 460 daily by school buses within the Town of Appomattox is 329," Walton concluded.

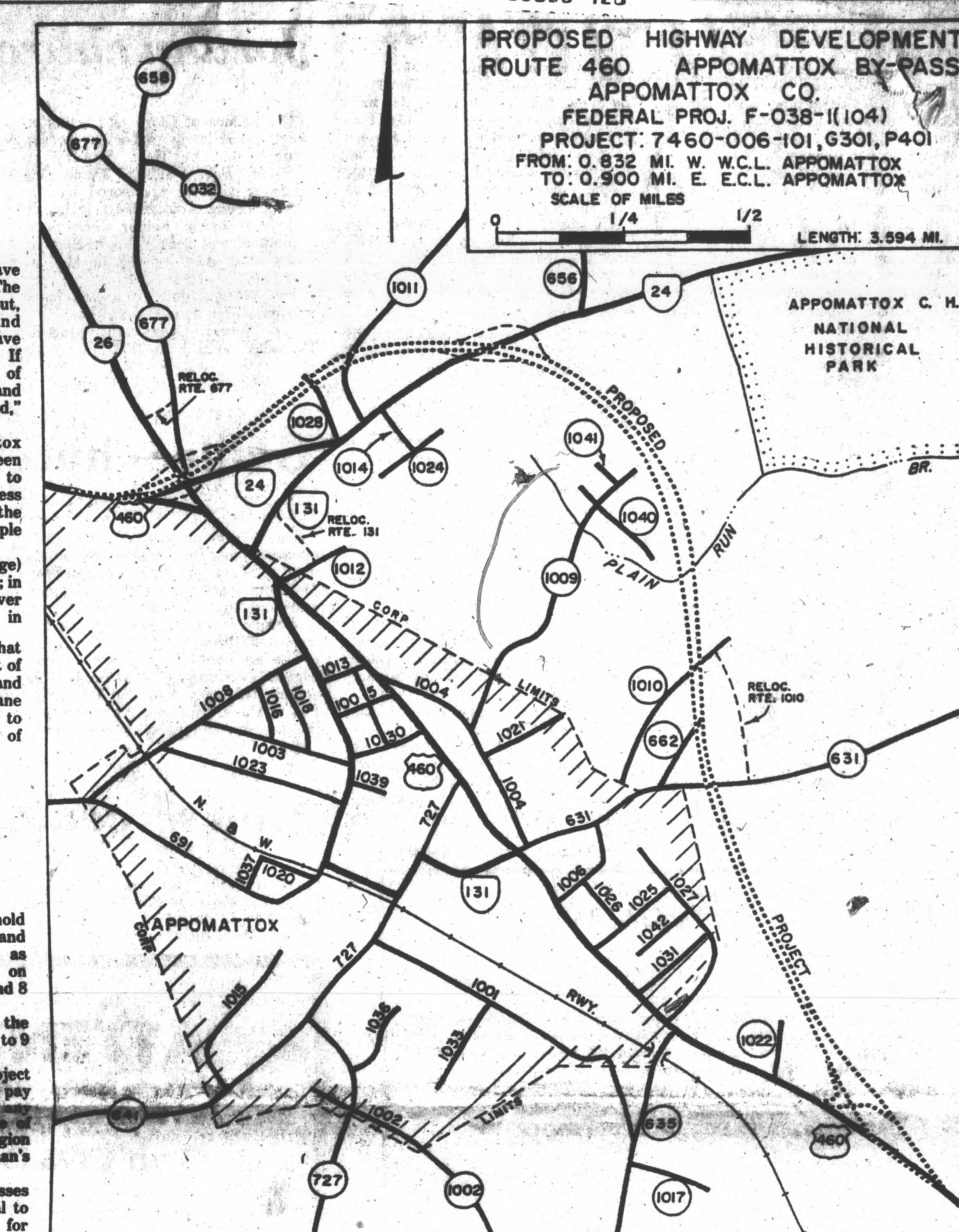
Looking at the other side of the picture, Ray Noble, owner and operator of the Travelers Inn Motel and member of the Appomattox Town Council is not in favor of the proposed by-pass.

"It's going to cost too much for the good it will do. I don't think we have enough traffic to warrant it. The problem is local. Schools let out, garment factories let out and Armstrong Furniture employees leave at approximately the same time. If there could be a rescheduling of departing times for the businesses and schools, the problem could be helped," Noble said.

The population of Appomattox County increased 22 percent between 1970 and 1980. There is no reason to believe the growth will be any less from 1980 to 1990. While most of the traffic is through traffic, local people add to it.

In 1980 14,730 vehicles (average) travelled through Appomattox daily; in 1981 there were 13,685. In 1982 over 14,000 and approximately 15,000 in 1983.

If the by-pass becomes a reality what will it cost? The 1984 estimated cost of a two lane facility is seven million and the 1984 estimated cost of a four lane facility is 11 million, according to figures from the Department of Highways and Transportation.



Two convicted of fraud

Two Appomattox County citizens have been found guilty of welfare fraud concerning failure to report earned income.

Roger E. Allen was found guilty on December 6, 1983 in the Appomattox General District Court. He had failed to report earned income and unemployment benefits. He also made false statements concerning the size of his household.

Allen had applied for Aid to Dependent Children, Food Stamps, and State and Local Hospitalization. Hs total overissuance was $1,229.32 in benefits.

He was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to two years, suspended on good behavior. He was ordered to repay the $1,229.32. The judge removed Allen from the Food Stamp grant for a period of one year.

Shirley Moseley was found guilty of food stamp fraud by the Appomattox General District Court on January 18, 1984. She had failed to report earned income of a household member and her own unemployment benefits. Her food stamp overissuance amounted to $2007.00

Moseley was sentenced to one year in jail, suspended on good bahavior. She was ordered to repay the $2007.00. The judge ordered her to seek employment to help repay the overissuance. The judge also ordered that Moseley be removed from the Food Stamp grant for two years or until the overissuance is repaid.

Landowners to gather

A mass meeting of Appomattox County landowners and farmers has been called to meet with the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting on Friday, Feb. 10, at 10:45 in the Court House to discuss the reassessment.

"We would like to have as many Appomattox County landowners as possible to meet before the board," said Otho W. Martin, Jr., Appomattox County landowner.

Legion sets fundraiser

American Legion Post 104 will hold its annual sale of 1985 calendars and other advertising materials used as promotional items in business on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 7 and 8 in the American Legion Building.

The public is invited to view the display from 4 to 6 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. both days.

This is a major fund-raising project for the local American Legion. You pay the same price you would pay any other representative for this type of promotional material and the Legion benefits only from the saleman's commission.

Legion officials request businesses who purchase this type of material to visit the display or call 352-7138 for further information.

Local program offers on-the-job training

By FRANCES ABBITT

The "On The Job Training Program," a joint effort of the Lynchburg Community Action Group and the Private Industry Council, is making a difference in Appomattox.

Lynchburg Community Action Group, (Lyn CAG) serves five localities, Appomattox County, Amherst County, Bedford County, Campbell County, Bedford City and the City of Lynchburg and has been in operation in Appomattox County for four years. Five areas of service include Work Experience Program, Summer Youth Program and On The Job Training Program.

Participants in the programs are divided into the following categories: youth to high school seniors; adult; older workers, 55 years or older; ex-offenders; handicapped and veterans.

The On The Job Training Program is successful in this county. Last year 38 individuals participated in Appomattox and each earned approximately $990 from June until September.

Shirley D. Wheeler, Resource Counselor and Certificaton officer in the Appomattox office is pleased with the work here.

"We have 28 certified clients in Appomattox now and out of these, 14 are placed. We really want to appeal to the businessmen to open their doors and let our people come in and prove what a good job they can do and at the same time make themselves self sufficient," said Wheeler.

Lyn CAG's On The Job Training Programs are designed to have dual benefits. First of all it provides a level of skill training for unemployed individuals with minimal skill levels and is also tailored to it the needs of both the employer and the trainee. The employer is provided with a dependable career-oriented employee and is reimbursed up to 50 percent of that employees training wages. In addition, additonal tax incentives are available for those businesses who hire the trainee for a full time position.

The O.J.T. Marketing programs are designed to provide up to a total of 800 training hours for adults, based on a 40 hour work week and 500 training hours for Youth based on an average 20 hour work week.

Once the training is completed, then what? If the employee has performed satisfactorily and responded well to the training, the employer is encouraged to hire the individual on a full time basis. Added tax incentives, spread over a two-year period are available if the employer hires full-time participants who have met qualifications.

The employer will be responsible for providing a safe and healthful place for the trainee to work. The employer will also be expected to provide trainees with the same benefits as other workers, such as social security, workman's compensation, withholding tax deductions, etc.

The adult applicants will be people who have been in the job market before. They will have held jobs which may have been phased out or have left jobs to raise families. They are adult workers seeking new skills. They are dependable, mature, work and career-oriented people who are trying to improve their lives.

The applicants in the youth, 17 through 22 age group, will be seeking work experience as well as job skills which will carry over to eventual full time employment.

The O.J.T. Marketing Programs have been designed primarily to service private-for-profit enterprises in the Central Virginia area.

For more information call Lyn CAG. An O.J.T. Marketing Program representative will be glad to talk to you. The number is (804) 846-2433 or 2778.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Greetings, as we wind down on January and get set for Ground Hog Day. I have no special plans for Thursday, Feb. 2, but will lay low so cannot be blamed for whatever weather we get.

* * * *

Most hunting seasons end this week, but East of the Blue Ridge quail season runs through Feb. 29, a Leap Year special.

* * * *

Correction. It is Steve Mayberry, not his brother Greg, who works at a local food store stock room. Thanks to his grandmother for telling me. Greg is at Ferrum College and has been placed on the draft list by Boston Red Sox. He is a pitcher.

* * * *

Mark Thomas paid us a pleasant visit and brightened the day on Martha Street. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thomas, Rt. 2, Appomattox, he is a senior at Radford University. Majoring in journalism he hopes to be a reporter. Class of 1979 at ACHS. Brought me several copies of The Tartan, college paper, at his school, to which he contributes. At the moment he is doing a special paper on his home area and its future. Wish you the best!

* * * *

So much news in the sports world. Must not overlook the ACHS volleyball team. I have a note which says Undefeated.

* * * *

A news item states that there is talk of a manned permanent base on the Moon. Do NOT vote for me, but there will be no lack of nominations.

* * * *

One of the books in my library is devoted to ancient Armenian literature. Quaint. One long poem managed to end each stanza with "And three apples fell to the ground." Ah yes, I am convinced that an awesome lot of everything has happened, is happening and will happen.

* * * *

Snow on your mind? I did a quick check and the word "snow" is in the Bible 24 times. All the way to "white as snow" in Rev. 1:14.

* * * *

Did not mean to overlook thanking Kim Ryan for having a part in sending me copies of Boston and Miami newspapers.

* * * *

Small things can make or break a day. Saturday morning in putting on my shoes I broke a shoe lace. Right off I remembered I had an extra pair and where I had hid them. And also remembered that the said shoe laces had been given me by T. Hunter Dickerson while he was running his store here.

* * * *

Memo: Get and save the new postage stamp in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Pres. Harry Truman.

* * * *

Heavens to Betsy An article about a Chinese student now studying in this country mentions: "The school day in China begins at seven a.m. and ends at six p.m., with a two hour break at mid-day. Students attend classes every day except Sunday."

* * * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

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From out of the past come memories of a high school musical production in which many local citizens participated. **See story, page 6.**

Times-Virginian correspondent

Mrs. Mary Bagby passes away at 81

Mary Covington Bagby, 81, died Monday, Jan. 30, in the Virginia Baptist Hospital. She was the wife of the late Charlie J. Bagby and the daughter of the late Thomas F. and Mary Emma Covington of Appomattox County.

Born November 19, 1902, she was a lifelong member of Hollywood Baptist Church where she was active in all areas of church work. She was a member of the church choir, WMU president from 1975 until her death; church historian, member of Adult Women's Class in Sunday School. She was a member of the United Daughters of Confederacy.

Mrs. Bagby was country correspondent for the Times-Virginian for many years. Her Hollywood news column appeared weekly.

"Although she had no children of her own she was a mother to all her nieces and nephews and a grandmother to her great nieces and nephews and a friend to all," said a niece, Mrs. Katherine Woodall.

Survivors include a brother, Frank O. Covington of Marietta, Ohio; a foster brother, Cecil Sells, Princeton, W. Va.; a number of nieces and nephews; two sister-in-laws, Mrs. Edna T. Covington and Mrs. Elizabeth C. Covington.

A funeral service will be held today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. at the Hollywood Baptist Church with burial in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Mary C. Bagby

FEB